In the Claims:

Applicants respectfully request that the claims of the present application be amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A stable aqueous G-CSF-containing composition comprising[[,]] ~~as a buffer substance~~[[,]] succinate in the form of [[the]] a free acid ~~and/or~~ or in the form of a salt thereof in a concentration of from 0.5 to 100 mM.

2. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~according to~~ of claim 1, wherein the pH value of the composition is between 3.5 and 6.0~~, preferably between 4.0 and 5.8, and more preferably between 4.5 and 5.5.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~according to~~ of claim 1 or 2, wherein the salt of the succinic acid is selected from alkali, alkaline earth, [[or]] and ammonium salts.

4. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~according to~~ of claim 3, wherein the salt of the succinic acid is the disodium salt.

5. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~according to~~ of ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1[[to 4]], wherein the succinate is present in a concentration of from 1 to 50 mM.

6. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~according to~~ of ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 [[to 5]], wherein G-CSF is present in a concentration of from 0.0001 to 5 mg/ml~~, in particular of from 0.0005 to 4 mg/ml, and preferably of from 0.01 to 1.5 mg/ml~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~according to~~ of ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 [[to 6]], further comprising one or more further stabilizers ~~and/or~~ or adjuvants and

inactive ingredients~~, in particular selected from the group consisting of surfactants, isotonizing agents, amino acids, reducing agents, antioxidants, complexing agents, and chaotropic agents~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~according to~~ of claim 7, wherein the surfactant is a non-ionogenic surfactant selected from the group consisting of polyoxyethylene sorbitan monolaurate, polyoxyethylene sorbitan monooleate, polyoxyethylene sorbitan monostearate, polyoxyethylene-sorbitan monopalmitate, polyoxyethylene sorbitan trioleate and polyoxyethylene sorbitan tristearate.

9. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~according to~~ of claim 7, wherein the complexing agent is citrate.

10. (Currently Amended) The composition ~~according to~~ of claim 7, wherein the isotonizing agent is mannitol ~~and/or~~ or sorbitol.

11. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising t[[T]]he composition ~~according to~~ of ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 10 as a pharmaceutical preparation~~.

12. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition ~~according to~~ of claim 11, wherein the pharmaceutical ~~preparation~~ composition is a solution for injection or infusion.

13. (Currently Amended) A lyophilisate or a powder comprising the composition of claim 1 and further comprising succinic acid, wherein the succinic acid is in the form of a free acid or in the form of a salt ~~G-CSF as well as succinate in the form of the free acid and/or of a salt thereof, obtainable by lyophilization or spray-drying, respectively, of an aqueous G-CSF-containing composition according to any one of claims 1 to 10~~.

14. (Currently Amended) The lyophilisate or powder ~~according to~~ of claim 13, wherein the salt of the succinic acid is selected from alkali, alkaline earth, [[or]] and ammonium salts.

15. (Currently Amended) The lyophilisate or powder ~~according to~~ of ~~any one of claims~~ claim 13 [[or 14]], wherein the salt of the succinic acid is the disodium salt.

16. (Currently Amended) The lyophilisate or powder ~~according to~~ of ~~any one of claims~~ claim 13 to 15[[,]] ~~further~~ comprising one or more additional ~~stabilizers and/or adjuvants and~~ inactive ingredients[[,]] ~~in particular~~ selected from the group consisting of adjuvants, stabilizers, surfactants, isotonizing agents, aminoacids, reducing agents, antioxidants, complexing agents and chaotropic agents.

17. (Currently Amended) The lyophilisate or powder ~~according to~~ of claim 16, wherein the complexing agent is citrate.

18. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical kit comprising physically separated:

a) a G-CSF-containing lyophilisate or powder; and

b) an aqueous solvent comprising succinate in the form of [[the]] a free acid ~~and/or~~ or in the form of a salt thereof.

19. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical kit ~~according to~~ of claim 18, wherein the G-CSF-containing lyophilisate or powder comprises succinate in the form of [[the]] a free acid ~~and/or~~ or in the form of a salt thereof.

20. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical kit ~~according to~~ of claim 18 [[or 19]], wherein the lyophilisate or powder ~~and/or~~ or the aqueous solvent further comprise one or more additional ~~stabilizers and/or adjuvants and~~ inactive ingredients~~[[,]] in particular~~ selected from the group consisting of adjuvants, stabilizers, surfactants,

isotonizing agents, aminoacids, reducing agents, antioxidants, complexing agents and chaotropic agents.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing aqueous compositions of claim 1 that are stable in storage, ~~that are stable in storage according to any one of claims 1 to 12,~~ said method comprising dissolving of G-CSF in an aqueous solvent comprising succinate, wherein said succinate is in the form of [[the]] a free acid ~~and/or~~ or in the form of a salt thereof in a concentration of from 0.5 to 100 mM ~~as a buffer substance~~.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a lyophilisate or a powder ~~according to any one of claims 13 to 17~~ comprising the composition of claim 1 and further comprising succinic acid, wherein the succinic acid is in the form of a free acid or in the form of a salt, comprising lyophilizing or spray-drying a composition ~~according to~~ of ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 [[to 10]].

23. (Currently Amended) Use of succinate in the form of [[the]] a free acid ~~and/or~~ or in the form of a salt thereof for stabilizing G-CSF in aqueous compositions and lyophilisates and powders obtainable therefrom.

24. (Currently Amended) Use of a composition ~~according to~~ of ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 [[to 10]] ~~or of a lyophilisate or powder according to any one of claims 13 to 17~~ for preparing pharmaceutical preparations.

25. (Currently amended) The [[Use]] use ~~according to~~ of claim 24, wherein the pharmaceutical preparations comprise hydrogels or liposomes.

26. (New) The composition of claim 2 wherein the pH value is between 4.0 and 5.8.

27. (New) The composition of claim 26 wherein the pH value is between 4.5 and 5.5.

28. (New) The composition of claim 6 wherein the G-CSF is present in a concentration of from 0.0005 to 4 mg/ml.

29. (New) The composition of claim 28 wherein the G-CSF is present in a concentration of from 0.01 to 1.5 mg/ml.

30. (New) The composition of claim 7 wherein the stabilizers, adjuvants, or inactive ingredients are selected from the group consisting of surfactants, isotonizing agents, amino acids, reducing agents, antioxidants, complexing agents, and chaotropic agents.

31. (New) Use of a lyophilisate or powder according to claim 13 for preparing pharmaceutical preparations.

32. (New) The use of claim 31, wherein the pharmaceutical preparations comprise hydrogels or liposomes.